

# The Pipeline

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## McCracken County Supervisor Takes Grannis Award

By Cary Willis

McCracken County's Lois G. Smith has received the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Paul T. Grannis Memorial Award for her dedication to families in crisis.

Smith, representing the Purchase Region, was recognized by the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children along with 15 other regional nominees in a luncheon and awards ceremony in Frankfort on Nov. 20. Smith, a 34-year veteran, is a family services intake/investigation team supervisor. She was unable to attend the ceremony because her husband Calvin was undergoing surgery.



*Sandra Lynn (center) accepts Lois Smith's Grannis Award from Secretary Viola Miller (Right). Also pictured is Lana Lewis, who not only nominated Smith, but is also her supervisor.*

Secretary Viola Miller said Smith is known for empowering her 10-member staff, through mentoring and teaching, to strive for the best, and for her willingness to "go before the lights" of the news media to educate the public about parents' responsibilities in caring for their children.

Lana Lewis, Smith's supervisor, said she nominated Smith for the award in part because of her stabilizing influence on the children she has helped. Before the concept of family-based services, she helped 19-year-old twins keep their

sibling group of six together. She still sees them – and their grandchildren – and "marvels at their accomplishments against the odds."

Smith was also instrumental in suggesting changes in legal requirements to notify law enforcement of all adult- and spouse-abuse reports. The law's original wording often required social workers to send information back to the law enforcement agencies that originated the information. Changes in the law eliminated 25,000 pieces of paper per year and improved workers' effectiveness.

In 1972 Smith and her husband adopted a sibling group of three, ages 5, 6, and 7, and they now have five grandchildren. Smith has also served as pianist and handbell choir director for the Twelfth Street Baptist Church.

The Grannis award is the most prestigious honor offered to front-line staff of the Cabinet's Department for Community Based Services. It is named after Paul T. Grannis, a 35-year-old social worker killed in Fleming County in 1987 while attempting to investigate a child-abuse case.

Secretary Miller said Grannis "exemplified the sincerity, dedication, and sacrifice exhibited by our workers – who put their reputation, their careers, and their lives on the line every day in an endless endeavor to protect Kentucky's children and vulnerable adults."

## Re-hire Rules After You Retire

By Pam Fries

The 1998 General Assembly passed legislation allowing state government retirees to retain full retirement benefits even if they are rehired by the state. Although the legislation said that retired-rehired employees would have to start a new retirement account, a number of other questions arose about the hiring process, service credit, and other benefits. To answer many of the questions, the Kentucky Personnel Cabinet issued a clarification memo on Nov. 6.

According to that memo, if you

- ♦ retire from the executive branch (that's any state agency except those under the legislative and judicial branches of government); and

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- you get retirement pay from the Kentucky Employees Retirement Systems, the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System, the County Employees Retirement System, or a combination of the three; and
- after a 12-month break in service, you accept a job in the executive branch, you will be considered a new employee.

As a new employee, you:

- must score in the top five on the competitive register to be employed in the classified service;
- will receive a salary set by provisions for new appointments in the classified and unclassified service;
- must serve an initial probationary period and establish a new increment date; and
- will accumulate and retain leave based on your hire date as a new employee.

The Cabinet Secretary of the agency proposing to hire you must sign the appointment personnel action.

If you have questions about the above, call the Personnel Cabinet at (502) 564-7430.

If you have questions about how re-employment after retirement could affect your rights under a retirement system, call the retirement system(s) through which you receive benefits.

## Central Office Notes and Activities

- ✓ **The aerobics program meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 p.m.** in the CHR cafeteria. There will be no classes this week due to the Holidays. Classes will resume on Dec. 1. If you have questions, call Beth Bates at 564-7736.
- ✓ **Many of the local school students who are part of the Special Friends mentoring program belong to families who need assistance during the holidays.** If your office unit would like to provide help for one of these families, please contact Ronnie Dunn of the Employee Services Branch at 564-7770.
- ✓ **Be sure to inform your timekeeper of new or changed addresses as soon as possible so you can get your W2s promptly.** Call Fay Klessig at 564-7770 with questions about the change of address procedure.
- ✓ **Santa is coming soon!!** He'll be making his rounds through the Cabinet for Families and Children and the Cabinet for Health Services on Friday, Dec. 18 to visit children of employees. Santa's schedule has been posted on the Pipeline pole throughout the CHR and Health Services buildings.

## Sick Leave Needed

Donated sick leave is being requested for Robin Gorman, who is ill. Robin is an employee of Public Health. If you have questions, or would like to donate time, call Bill Irvine at 564-2157.



Janet Skelton, an employee for the Cabinet for Health Services, is also in need of sick leave to care for her daughter. To donate time, call Rita Stratton at 573-2738 or Melony Collins at 564-7770.

## 1998 Holiday Guidelines

Offices will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 for the Christmas holidays and on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, 1999, for the New Year's holidays. In preparation for the upcoming holidays, CFC Secretary Viola Miller and CHS Secretary John Morse issued the following guidelines:

- ◆ Special holiday luncheons and gift-giving activities should be held to a minimum. Managers should use their judgement about the length of time for these gatherings, and telephones must be covered at all times.
- ◆ Live greenery is not permitted for holiday decorations; only artificial greenery should be used, with mini-lights for decoration. No open flames are permitted. Do not use extension cords for lights on artificial trees or other decorations. Plug all electrical cords for decorations directly into wall sockets or power poles.
- ◆ Decorations may go up the week of Nov. 30, but should be removed before the New Year's Holiday. In line with existing policy, do not hang or attach decorations from ceiling beams, power poles, walls, windows, partitions or circular supports. Appropriate decorations may be placed on desks, tables, or filing cabinets, but be careful about attaching adhesives to wooden furniture.
- ◆ No alcoholic beverages are permitted on state property.

## CFC Selects Employees of the Month

In a recognition ceremony on Monday, Nov. 23, Tim Jackson presented Ann Catt and Elaine Butler with Employee of the Month Awards.



Ann Catt (pictured above) works for the Division of Disability Determination in First City Complex. Ann has worked for Disability Determination more than 30 years. She was nominated by Sherry Helfand-Prewitt, who describes Ann as fair, considerate, and always willing to go above and beyond the call of duty.



Elaine Butler (pictured above) works for the Division of Financial Management in the CHR Building. Elaine was nominated by Mark Cornett, who describes her as a team player "who always gives 110 percent." "Elaine is not only a great person to work with," Cornett said, "but she has a wonderful sense of humor."

## National conference recognizes CFC's Joel Griffith

By Cary Willis

The National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect has recognized Joel T. Griffith, a supervisor for the Cabinet for Families and Children, for his leadership in child-abuse prevention.



Griffith, a Family Services Program Supervisor in Northern Kentucky, was honored Nov. 19 with a Commissioner's Award during the conference in Cincinnati. The Commissioner's Award is given to one professional or volunteer from each state and U.S. territory who has made outstanding contributions toward protecting children from unsafe environments.

Griffith, previously a Child Protective Services specialist in Frankfort, played a key role in developing the legislation known as House Bill 142, which passed the 1998 General Assembly. The law lowered the threshold for intervention by the courts and the Cabinet in child-abuse cases and streamlined the process of making mistreated children available for adoption.

Griffith also helped establish the statewide child-fatality review system. And he was instrumental in establishing abuse-awareness events such as Child Abuse Prevention Month and Blue Ribbon Day. The Dry Ridge resident serves on numerous boards, task forces, and commissions related to child health and safety issues.

"Joel's pretty unassuming, but I think the thing about Joel is he's real committed to what he's doing," Northern Kentucky District Manager Gary Taylor said in an interview with the Kentucky Post.

"I am humbled and realize that there are a lot of deserving people, but I am really pleased that I was chosen," Griffith said. He said he enjoys child protection, saying it's the type of work in which "you feel like you really can make an impact."

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**Pipeline**, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for *Pipeline* are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; items for intercom announcements are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday. Call (502) 564-6786 or send information to Patricia Loman at [ploman@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:ploman@mail.state.ky.us).